

CHAS-301  
PLEASANT HILL (Truman's Place)  
Hughesville  
Private

18th century  
and later

Originally part of Manor of Truman's Place (also known as Truman's Place), a 1665 land grant to Nathaniel Truman, and encompassing parts of The Inclosure and Pryor's Cleave, patent tracts of William Wilkerson's, Pleasant Hill is an interesting though extensively altered building. The oldest part of the house is the three bay first floor level of the main block. Displaying well executed Flemish bond brickwork, this part of the house probably dates from the third quarter of the 18th century. Its several original features include a chamfered watertable, two exterior chimneys at each end with chamfered brick shoulders, and a full cellar with arched niches beneath the chimney bases.

Pleasant Hill, as it was later called, was altered and enlarged at various times in the 19th century, including the raising of the walls to a full two-story height and the addition of a two-story wing at the south end. The present center hall-four room plan dates from this period. In more recent years the south wing was torn down and replaced by the existing two-part brick wing. A two-story galleried porch was also built across the west front of the main block. Most of the interior woodwork dates from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is of an extremely plain design.

Throughout most of the 19th and early 20th century, the property was owned by members of the Gardiner family.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CHAS-301

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY MAGI #0903015204

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

PLEASANT HILL (Truman's Place)

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bassford Road

CITY, TOWN

Hughesville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Joseph Wilmer

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Bassford Road

CITY, TOWN

Hughesville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20637

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 110

Folio #: 437

STREET & NUMBER

Charles Street (P.O. Box B)

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland 20646

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CH-301

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Truman's Place is a composite of three basic phases of construction, each carried out about 100 years apart. A two-story house with a two-part wing, it faces west and is approached by a private drive that begins at the north end of Bassford Road.

The oldest part of the existing house is the first floor level of the main block. Believed to date from the mid-eighteenth century, the original structure was of Flemish bond construction, three bays wide on both side elevations, and had two exterior chimneys at each end and a gable roof. In addition to its attractively executed masonry this older part of the house is noted for its chamfered water-table and chimney shoulders. Between the two north chimneys were two gable windows, both of which were later bricked in. The house was built with a full cellar in which can be seen the arched niches supporting the chimneys and some eighteenth century framing.

In the mid-nineteenth century the original house was raised to two-storys by extending the end walls with common bond brick and the side walls with frame. It was at this time that the front and rear windows of the original house were enlarged and the existing two-over-two sash installed. A first floor window was also provided between the two north end chimneys. Additional alterations included the raising of the four chimney stacks and the complete renovation of the first floor interior of the original house, the latter including the changing of the room arrangement to its present center hall plan. It was also at this time that a slightly lower two-story wing was built at the south end. Off-centered on this elevation of the main block, the wing was accessible by doors located between the southwest corner and the first south end chimney at both floor levels.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's the house was completely renovated, on both the interior and exterior, leaving very little of the original or even nineteenth century fabric. Major exterior work included the resheathing of the frame walls and the addition of a two-story galleried porch on the west side and a one-story porch with roof balustrade on the east side. The upper levels of both porches are accessible by doors located in the center bays of the side elevations. Louvered exterior shutters were also added, as well as a milled "colonial-style" architrave to frame the front (west) door. It was also at this time that the nineteenth century south wing was torn down and replaced by a two-part brick wing that houses a modern kitchen in the gambrel roofed center section and a garage in the smaller gable roofed end part.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

---

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	-------------------

---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally part of Manor of Truman's Place (also known as Truman's Place), a 1665 land grant to Nathaniel Truman, and encompassing parts of The Inclosure and Pryor's Cleave, patent tracts of William Wilkerson's, Pleasant Hill is an interesting though extensively altered building. The oldest part of the house is the three bay first floor level of the main block. Displaying well executed Flemish bond brickwork, this part of the house probably dates from the third quarter of the 18th century. Its several original features include a chamfered watertable, two exterior chimneys at each end with chamfered brick shoulders, and a full cellar with arched niches beneath the chimney bases.

Pleasant Hill, as it was later called, was altered and enlarged at various times in the 19th century, including the raising of the walls to a full two-story height and the addition of a two-story wing at the south end. The present center hall-four room plan dates from this period. In more recent years the south wing was torn down and replaced by the existing two-part brick wing. A two-story galleried porch was also built across the west front of the main block. Most of the interior woodwork dates from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and is of an extremely plain design.

Throughout most of the 19th and early 20th century, the property was owned by members of the Gardiner family.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Pleasant Hill is located on a 354.45 acre tract of land identified as parcel 23, Map 26 of the Charles County Tax Maps (revised January, 1976).

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Charles County Planning Department

DATE

August, 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Charles County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

645-6537

CITY OR TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CH-301

CHAS-301

TRUMAN'S PLACE

From N.W. J.R.Rivoire, 1978





CHAS-301

TRUMAN'S PLACE

N. End

J.R.Rivoire, 1978

108-40